

to be no information regarding the mode of perching of *A. formosa*. *A. subflava*, like *A. amandava*, also shows a tendency to excessive claw growth in captivity. The behaviour of *A. subflava* has been described by Kunkel (1959) and Goodwin (1960). It has a bowing display with erection of the feathers but holds nothing in its bill. *A. formosa* has a similar type of display. In all three species the young, when begging for food, raise one or both wings. There appears not to be a true song (in the sense of a complex utterance) in either *A. formosa* or *A. subflava* but Goodwin records a single note uttered by the latter species which appears to function as song. The singing bird is recorded as perching very upright and turning the head from side to side as it sings. This head-turning is also characteristic in the singing of *E. malabarica* and *L. punctulata*.

Any conclusions regarding the affinities of *A. amandava* must, in the absence of any other evidence, apply to *A. subflava* and *A. formosa* also.

### CONCLUSIONS

From a study of its plumage pattern and its general posture and behaviour *A. amandava* was found to show little or no affinity with the typical African waxbills (Estrildini). In all the above characters it revealed a closer affinity with various species of mannikin (Amadinini). It is not suggested that *A. amandava* is closely related to any particular mannikin species but that it is a member of this tribe showing specialisation for a particular habitat or mode of life.

#### References:

- Delacour, J. (1943). A revision of the subfamily Estrildinae of the Family Ploceidae. *Zoologica* 28: 69-86.
- Goodwin, D. (1960). Observations on Avadavats and Golden-breasted Waxbills. *Avic. Mag.* 66: 174-199.
- Kunkel, P. (1959). Zum Verhalten einiger Prachtfinken (Estrildinae). *Zeits. f. Tierps.* 16: 302-350.
- Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, C. H. B. (1955). *African Handbook of Birds*. Ser. 1, Vol. 2. London.
- Morris, D. (1958). The comparative ethology of Grassfinches (Erythrurae) and Mannikins (Amadininae). *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 131: 389-439.
- Moynihan, M. and Hall, M. F. (1954). Hostile, sexual and other social behaviour patterns of the Spice Finch (*Lonchura punctulata*) in captivity. *Behaviour* 7: 33-76.
- Steiner, H. (1960). Klassifikation der Prachtfinken, Spermestidae, auf Grund der Rachenzeichnungen ihrer Nestlinge. *Jour. F. Ornith.* 101: 92-112.
- Wolters, H. E. (1944). Ueber den taxonomischen Wert der weissen "Tropfenfleckung" bei den Estrildinen. *Ornith. Monats.* 52: 27-29.
- Wolters, H. E. (1957). Die Klassifikation der Webefinken (Estrildidae). *Bonn. Zool. Beitr.* 8: 90-129.

## Notes on some undescribed eggs from New Guinea

by S. A. PARKER

Received 6th December, 1961

Eggs of the following species obtained by Mr. F. Shaw Mayer in the Kratke Mountains, New Guinea, for the Hon. W. Rothschild, and now in the National Collection, appear to be undescribed.

### *Pitohui dichrous* (Bonaparte)

Shaw Mayer obtained four clutches of this woodshrike in the Buntibasa district, Kratke Mountains, at 4,000 ft. They are as follows:—

c/1, 21st November, 1932 (Reg. No. 1941. 1. 5. 21) c/2, 13th February, 1933 (Reg. No. 1941. 1. 5. 18) and c/1, 14th February, 1933 (Reg. No.

1941. 1. 5. 20). The fourth clutch, a c/1, bears no date, but belongs to the same series.

The ♀ parent of one clutch is also in the National Collection (Reg. No. 1939. 12. 9. 1529). Another ♀ (Reg. No. 1939. 12. 9. 1528) was secured on her nest with one chick at Buntibasa on the 12th December, 1932.

The nest, according to field notes accompanying the eggs, is "open basin-shaped, composed almost entirely of curly vine tendrils, lined with finer tendrils". The nest-site is not mentioned.

The five eggs are elliptical in shape. They have a uniform creamy or light pinkish-stone ground, with light and dark brown (sometimes blackish) spots and blotches and underlying light grey patches, evenly distributed over the surface, though one egg has most of the markings around the larger end.

Measurements in mm. are:— 30.8 x 21.5 and 30.9 x 21.5; 32.8 x 22.2; 27 x 20.5; 29.2 x 21.6.

#### *Pitohui nigrescens* (Schlegel)

A female of this species, also in the National Collection (Reg. No. 1939. 12. 9. 1522) was taken while incubating a single egg; another was ready for deposition. This was on 28th December, 1932 at 4,500 ft. in the Buntibasa district.

The nest is described as being "open cup-shaped, composed of whole fern fronds loosely held together with fine rootlets, and lined with fine rootlets".

The single egg (Reg. No. 1941. 1. 5. 23) is very distinctive, having a deep maroon-brown ground colour; light and dark brown, and underlying grey blotches and spots are evenly distributed over the shell, which is elliptical, measuring 32.5 x 23.3 mm.

## A new race of warbler *Apalis flavida* (Strickland) from Central Africa

by WALTER J. LAWSON

Received 16th September, 1961

In a recent paper on the southern and eastern races of *Apalis flavida* in Africa (*Durban Mus. Novit.*, vol. 6, (9), 119–126, 1961) I remarked on the possibility of the populations of this small warbler from central and northern Angola, western Northern Rhodesia and the south-eastern Congo representing a hitherto undescribed race. I refrained from formally proposing a name because of an inadequacy of material from the area.

Since then I have been fortunate enough to have on loan and to examine specimens from Angola, western Northern Rhodesia and the eastern Congo which were kindly sent at my request by Dr. James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History and Mr. Melvin A. Traylor of the Chicago Natural History Museum, in addition to the specimens already placed at my disposal by Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin of the National Museum of Southern Rhodesia.

Among the specimens received from Dr. Chapin were those from Baraka, north-west shore of Lake Tanganyika to which he referred in